

House Resolution 269

By: Representatives England of the 108th, Roberts of the 154th, McCall of the 30th, Levitas of the 82nd, Smith of the 70th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Georgia Water Use Registration Program and the government officials
2 responsible for conserving Georgia's water; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, drought conditions in Georgia have challenged our economy and environment
4 in recent years; and

5 WHEREAS, state government officials charged with managing Georgia's water resources
6 have expertly and efficiently addressed the challenges resulting from low rainfall with the
7 best available science and sound stewardship practices; and

8 WHEREAS, local governments and water providers have diligently managed water supplies
9 during these tough times; and

10 WHEREAS, homeowners seeking to adequately maintain valuable greenspace have learned
11 to be flexible as local and state water management policies evolve based on climate
12 conditions; and

13 WHEREAS, the farmers and landscape professionals of Georgia's urban agriculture industry
14 have experienced drastic negative impacts during this period, yet have endured the
15 challenges; and

16 WHEREAS, a need existed to develop a public education initiative aimed at teaching
17 Georgians the benefit of conserving outdoor water use for greenspace that balanced
18 environmental, cultural, and economic concerns; and

19 WHEREAS, the Georgia Outdoor Water Use Registration Program was established to bring
20 together various stakeholders with concerns over the water shortage in Georgia and the
21 drought's long-term effects on the economy and livelihood of this state; and

22 WHEREAS, over 20,000 Georgians have completed the program's on-line training at
23 www.urbanagcouncil.com and received certification in responsible watering techniques, with
24 thousands more poised to participate in 2009; and

25 WHEREAS, the education and watering tips provided by the Georgia Outdoor Water Use
26 Registration Program have resulted in great strides in reducing unnecessary water use in
27 Georgia, helping to guarantee this vital resource is available for generations to come.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body commend Environmental Protection Division Director Carol
30 Couch, water professionals, local governmental leaders, and members of the Georgia Urban
31 Agriculture Council for their foresight, cooperation, and dedication towards promoting good
32 water stewardship practices through the Georgia Outdoor Water Use Registration Program,
33 and the citizens of Georgia who have made a commitment to ending wasteful water use in
34 Georgia.